APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/473,049	12/28/1999	TORU KAMIWADA	1405.1014/JD	9543

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EXAMINER
LUDWIG, MATTHEW J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2178	

DATE MAILED: 06/05/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 07-01)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _28 December 1999_ .

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under _Ex parte Quayle_, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) _1-17_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) _1-17_ is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _2_ .

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is responsive to communications: application filed 12/28/99.

2.   Claims 1-17 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 9, 15, and 17 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

4.   Claims 1-14 Are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pant et al.,

US Patent Number 6,012,053 filed(1/23/97) in view of Downs et al., US Patent Number

6,070,176 filed(1/30/97).

In reference to independent claim 1, Pant discloses:

A relevance determination module, which receives the search results from the database

query engine and applies pre-specified relevance factors to each of the corresponding items in

the search results to obtain scored search results. See column 3, lines 40-55. The relevance

ranking taught by Pant demonstrates a structure analysis means for determining display priority

of electronic documents. The reference further teaches structured information within a structured

document, which may be used to give more or less weight to a term depending upon the

enclosing tags. See column 6, lines 40-50. The structure analysis means taught by Pant provides

a proficient process for determining the priority of documents presented to the user.

The Pant reference discloses a database query engine, which applies the search query to

the database to provide search results, which include an indication of the items in the database

that match the search query. See column 3, lines 31-37. The reference discloses a database, which provides a sufficient storage unit for the relevance factors utilized for the determination of linked documents.

The reference does not explicitly teach a display means for determining the display method of each electronic document based on the display priority; however, the methods for graphically representing portions of the world wide web as taught by Downs, teaches a display means, which determines the display of documents based on disclosed relevancies. See column 5, lines 55-67.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Pant and Downs before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the relevance methods taught by Pant to include the display methods of Downs, because it would have provided the user the added benefit of straightforward visualization of the structured analysis performed the relevance ranking of Pant.

In reference to dependent claim 2, Pant discloses:

A relevance factor is a value associated with an attribute which an item in a database may have that either other items in the database might not have to the same degree, or which other items in the database might not have at all. See column 6, lines 22-33.

In reference to dependent claim 3, Pant discloses:

The relevance determination module then provides the scored results which are provided through a sorting module. The ranked results provided by the sorting module are formed into an HTML document then returned to the browser via the HTTP server.

In reference to dependent claim 4, Downs discloses:

Web documents which correspond to all search criteria but which have a lesser overall

degree of relevance to the search criteria are displayed in this embodiment as objects in the

center row; however, such objects appear to be farther from the user than objects representing

more relevant documents. See column 5, lines 55-67. The reference demonstrates the method of

displaying documents based on a relevance or priority value. Therefore, it would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the

relevance ranking methods of Pant, because it would have provided the user an well-organized

and uncomplicated way to visualize the documents displayed.

In reference to dependent claim 5, the claim includes similar limitations to that of dependent

claim 4, and is therefore rejected under similar rationale.

In reference to dependent claim 6, Pant discloses:

A relevance determination module, which receives the search results from the database

query engine and applies pre-specified relevance factors to each of the corresponding items in

the search results to obtain scored search results. See column 3, lines 40-55. The relevance

ranking taught by Pant demonstrates a structure analysis means for determining display priority

of electronic documents. The reference further teaches structured information within a structured

document, which may be used to give more or less weight to a term depending upon the

enclosing tags. See column 6, lines 40-50. The structure analysis means taught by Pant provides

a proficient process for determining the priority of documents presented to the user.

The Pant reference discloses a database query engine, which applies the search query to

the database to provide search results, which include an indication of the items in the database

that match the search query. See column 3, lines 31-37. The reference discloses a database,

which provides a sufficient storage unit for the relevance factors utilized for the determination of

linked documents.

In reference to dependent claim 7, Pant discloses:

If a structured document is being used, the structured information about a document may

be used to give more or less weight to a term depending upon the enclosing tags. It would have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have

modified the relevance weights taught by Pant and not included the specific documents with a

weight smaller than a predetermined set value, because it would have provided an efficient

management of displayable documents within a network environment.

In reference to dependent claim 8, the claim recites the apparatus for carrying out the methods

of claim 1 and is therefore rejected under the same rationale.

In reference to independent claim 9, Pant discloses:

If a structured document is being used, the structured information regarding a document

may be used to give more or less weight to a term depending upon the enclosing tags. The

reference does not explicitly teach analyzing the structure information of the starting point

document; however, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made to have modified the relevance weights taught by Pant and included some

form of starting point to analyze pertaining to the specific document, because it would have

provided an efficient and well-structured management method for displayable documents within

a network environment.

The Pant reference does not explicitly teach specifying the document group constituent

documents that constitute the document group structure; however, the Downs reference discloses

web documents, which are represented as individual objects in the map, and the relevance of a given web document to the user's search criteria is indicated by the apparent distance of the corresponding object to the user. Hypertext links between web documents are graphically represented by arrows connecting the objects. See column 3, lines 10-20. The reference demonstrates specifying the document group constituent documents that make up the document group structure.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, having the teachings of Pant and Downs before him at the time the invention was made, to modify the document relevance methods of Pant to include the display methods of Downs, because it would have gave the user the added benefit of visualizing linked documents based on weights and relevancy.

In reference to dependent claim 10, Downs discloses:

Those Web documents having the greatest relevance to the search criteria within this category are displayed within these rows as objects closer to the user, while those documents having lesser relevance are displayed within these rows as objects farther from the user. The reference demonstrates the utilization of a highest priority document and provides a starting point for a user to browse electronic documents. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the document structure relevancy ranking methods of Pant and included the priority methods of Downs, because it would have provided the user a well-structured document display method and straightforward way to browse electronic documents.

In reference to dependent claim 11, Downs discloses:

Web documents which correspond to all search criteria but which have a lesser overall degree of relevance to the search criteria are displayed in this embodiment as objects in the

center row; however, such objects appear to be farther from the user than objects representing

more relevant documents. See column 5, lines 55-67. The reference demonstrates the method of

displaying documents based on a relevance or priority value. Therefore, it would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the

relevance ranking methods of Pant, because it would have provided the user an well-organized

and uncomplicated way to visualize the documents displayed.

In reference to dependent claims 12, Pant discloses:

A relevance determination module, which receives the search results from the database

query engine and applies pre-specified relevance factors to each of the corresponding items in

the search results to obtain scored search results. See column 3, lines 40-55. The relevance

ranking taught by Pant demonstrates a structure analysis means for determining display priority

of electronic documents. The reference further teaches structured information within a structured

document, which may be used to give more or less weight to a term depending upon the

enclosing tags. See column 6, lines 40-50. The structure analysis means taught by Pant provides

a proficient process for determining the priority of documents presented to the user.

The Pant reference discloses a database query engine, which applies the search query to

the database to provide search results, which include an indication of the items in the database

that match the search query. See column 3, lines 31-37. The reference discloses a database,

which provides a sufficient storage unit for the relevance factors utilized for the determination of

linked documents.

In reference to dependent claim 13, Downs discloses:

Web documents which correspond to all search criteria but which have a lesser overall

degree of relevance to the search criteria are displayed in this embodiment as objects in the

center row. The reference does not explicitly teach not analyzing documents that are smaller than

the predetermined first set value; however, Downs demonstrates techniques of prioritizing

documents based on relevancy values and it would have been an obvious modification to not

include specific documents if they fell short of the relevance value.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

invention was made, to have modified Pant and included the display methods taught by Downs,

because it would have provided the user the added benefit of not having to view every document

presented on a display.

In reference to dependent claim 14, Pant discloses:

A relevance determination module, which receives the search results from the database

query engine and applies pre-specified relevance factors to each of the corresponding items in

the search results to obtain scored search results. See column 3, lines 40-55. The relevance

ranking taught by Pant demonstrates a structure analysis means for determining display priority

of electronic documents. The reference further teaches structured information within a structured

document, which may be used to give more or less weight to a term depending upon the

enclosing tags. See column 6, lines 40-50. The structure analysis means taught by Pant provides

a proficient process for determining the priority of documents presented to the user.

4.   Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stoub, US

Patent Number 6,389,437 filed(1/7/98)

In reference to independent claim 15, Stoub discloses:

Discloses a display window wherein the display window may include the entire viewing area of the screen or may include only a smaller, selected portion of the available viewing area of the screen. The reference further teaches a first formatting means, such as in the form of a screen page formatting mechanism of the page-forming mechanism, is configured to form a screen page dimensioned to fit within the viewing area of the display window and to thereby limit the quantity of electronic information available for printing. See column 5, lines 50-57.

The screen page formatting mechanism is configured to automatically determine the manner in which electronic information, referred to as source document, will be displayed in the display window. See column 59-67.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Stoub to include a predetermined position between the first and second documents, because it would have provided the user the added benefit of managing desired characteristics of a document within relative positions of the documents.

In reference to dependent claim 16, the claim recites similar subject matter to that of independent claim 15, and therefore is rejected under similar rationale.

In reference to independent claim 17, the claim recites the apparatus of independent claim 15, and therefore is rejected under similar rationale.

Conclusion

5.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Edwards et al.   US Patent No. 6,562,076   filed(8/31/98)
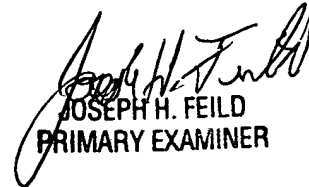
6.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Matthew J. Ludwig whose telephone number is 703-305-8043.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00am-5:00pm.

       If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on 703-308-5186. The fax phone numbers for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular

communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

       Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding

should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-4700.

ML
June 2, 2003

JOSEPH H. FEILD
PRIMARY EXAMINER